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Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 A-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 SY-05 SSO-00
/033 W
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R 081840Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE 6440
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
USIA WASHDC
WHITE HOUSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1791

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), BR
SUBJECT: MOVEMENT OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INTEREST IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER

1. AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARY RESIDENT IN BRASILIA, REV. EMMET
YOUNG,WHO IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY, HAS APPROACHED EMBOFF TO SOUND OUT POSSIBILITY OF PRESIDENT CARTER HAVING CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST IN EITHER BRASILIA OR RIO WITH ABOUT 25 PEOPLE (DEPUTIES AND SENATORS OF BOTH PARTIES AND LOWER COURT JUSTICES) WHO CONSTITUTE THE NON-DENOMINATIONAL MOVEMENT OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP (MCL) IN BRAZIL. ARENA AND MDB ARE REPRESENTED IN EQUAL NUMBERS IN THE MCL. YOUNG'S WORK IN BRAZIL IS TOTALLY WITH THE MCL, WHICH IS AFFILIATED WITH THE FELLOWSHIP MOVEMENT, 2817 WOODLAND ROAD, WASHINGTON, D.C. THAT SPONSORS THE ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL PRAYER BREAKFAST.

2. MCL IS A RESPECTED, NON-CONTROVERSIAL AND BIPARTISAN GROUP ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES IN GOVERNMENT. AS SUCH IT IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, AND QUIETLY WORKS TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BRAZIL. THE MCL SENDS
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A SMALL GROUP TO WASHINGTON EACH YEAR FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRAYER BREAKFAST AND THIS YEAR GROUP LEADER ARENA DEPUTY DASO COIMBRA MET BRIEFLY WITH PRESIDENT CARTER BEFORE THE BREAKFAST.

3. THE WASHINGTON BASED FELLOWSHIP MOVEMENT IS LED BY WAYNE SMITH, WHO ACCORDING TO REV. YOUNG, WAS A FACTOR IN ARRANGING PRESIDENT CARTER'S 1972 VISIT TO BRAZIL AND ACCOMPANIED HIM TO BRAZIL.

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4. YOUNG SAID THE MCL WANTED TO HOST A SMALL PRIVATE FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST WITH THE PRESIDENT BUT HAD NO DESIRE TO PUBLICIZE IT. THE SAME GROUP PRIVATELY HOSTED IO DEPASSTSECY GEORGE DALLEY, WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE FELLOWSHIP MOVEMENT, DURING HIS VISIT TO BRASILIA IN SEPTEMBER, 1977. DEPASSTSECY DALLEY'S CANDID IMPRESSIONS OF THE GROUP MAY BE HELPFUL TO THE DEPARTMENT.

5. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED TIGHTNESS OF PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE, BUT PROMISED TO REPORT YOUNG'S SOUNDING TO DEPARTMENT, AND SUGGESTED THAT YOUNG MIGHT ALSO WANT TO EXTEND INVITATION DIRECTLY TO WHITE HOUSE THROUGH WASHINGTON BASED FELLOWSHIP MOVEMENT CHIEF, WAYNE SMITH. JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRASIL01791
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780105-1218
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 2
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOVEMENT OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INTEREST IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER
TAGS: OVIP, BR, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/56d497cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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EO Systematic Review
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